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MEDIA ADVISORY

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FLORIDA ENERGY COMMISSION'S ADVISORY GROUP ON RENEWABLES TO MEET IN TALLAHASSEE

The Florida Energy Commission's Advisory Group on Renewables will hold its first meeting in Tallahassee on March 12 at 1 p.m. in Room 212 of the Knott Building in the Capitol Complex located at 100 W. St. Augustine Rd.

The meeting's purpose is to give Florida's people, businesses and energy community a chance to discuss renewable energy sources, and to share their ideas on integrating them into Florida's plan for its energy future.

"Renewable energy is every Floridian's business," said Commissioner Blake Casper, chairman of the Advisory Group on Renewables. "Public participation in the process of determining viable sources of renewable energy for Florida's future will increase our advisory group's perspective and ability to present our best options to the Legislature."

During the workshop the Advisory Group plans to discuss its mission in relation to Senate Bill 888, also known as Florida's Energy Act. Future meeting logistics will be set, and a method of operation for the Advisory Group will be discussed and determined. The agenda also contains a designated period for public comments.

The Advisory Group on Renewables is one of four subgroups the FEC created at its inaugural Feb. 9 meeting. Its charge is to investigate issues relating to renewable energy sources in Florida, and to develop a comprehensive state renewable energy plan through a public involvement process, including transportation and land use; power generation; residential, commercial and industrial activities; waste

management; agriculture and forestry; emissions-reporting systems, and public education.

“Renewable energy covers a wide range of options available,” Commissioner Casper said. “Determining the best, most viable renewable energy options for Florida is a challenge our Advisory Group takes very seriously.”

The Florida Energy Commission is a nine-member panel jointly appointed by the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives. It is charged with recommending to the Florida Legislature the best ways to secure Florida’s energy future using the guiding principles of reliability, efficiency, affordability and diversity.

By Dec. 31, the FEC will develop a report that will document its progress, and make the first of an ongoing series of recommendations designed to help guide the Florida Legislature in choosing best practices and options for Florida’s energy future.

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